

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of October 16, 2008**

The October meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The meeting began at approximately 7:08 p.m.

Present: Commissioners: Brian Baker, Bob Carter, Ken Kroko, Charles McDaniel, Barbara Miller-Richards, George Solley, Bob Antozzi and Patricia Sparks. **Absent:** Commissioners: Ed Crosslin and Susan Tyler.

The Commissioners welcomed Barbara Miller-Richards to the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Miller-Richards was appointed to represent the School Board.

I. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September 18, 2008 were unanimously approved.

II. Public Comment: None

Power Point Park Presentation: Mike Ward, Division Manager, Parks and Athletics, gave a power point presentation to the Commission on the City parks. Mike Ward updated the Commissioners on improvements made to the existing parks and he discussed the possibility of three new parks. The Commissioners complimented Mike Ward on his presentation. It was very well done.

III. Communications from the Director: The Commissioners reviewed the following reports:

- A. Financial Report September 2008**
- B. Sports Notes September/October 2008**
- C. Leisure Report October/November 2008**
- D. Old Mill Park Report September 2008**
- E. Follow up Report – September 18, 2008**
- F. Letter from Habitat for Humanity**
- G. Letter from Suffolk Parks & Recreation**

IV. Noteworthy Dates: The Commissioners reviewed upcoming Parks and Recreation programs.

V. Old Business:

- A. Pathways** – The engineer, Gordon and Associates has begun the detailed constructions plans for the VCR Trail. The City has a reasonable amount of grant funds to get started on the VCR Trail. Gordon and Associates will be providing a combined estimate for the preliminary and detailed engineering plan. The Heritage Trail development is pending on the coordination of a federal grant.
- B. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Partnership** – Commissioner Baker reported that he has not met with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation since May 2008. Currently, the Foundation is working on donor gifts for their matching fund campaign. The Foundation is expecting to meet their goal by the end of the year. City staff met with the City Attorney on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and it was not well received. Dr. Antozzi reported that there are several concerns that will be addressed such as maintenance of the fields, availability, programming and scheduling.
- C. Riverfront Park** – Commissioner Solley reported that the City has almost completed negotiations with the Wings on the Water property owners. Commissioner Solley reported that the City does not have funds to begin construction, however, the City will clear the property and begin some landscaping along the riverfront.
- D. Playground Equipment and Slides** – Take off agenda.
- E. Commission Vacancies** – Commissioner Baker reported that he had contacted Commissioner Crosslin in reference to his lack of attendance to the Recreation Commission Meetings. Commissioner Baker has not heard from Commissioner Crosslin. Commissioner Baker has contacted Chuck Ellis in reference to serving on the Recreation Commission. He will apply once he gets authorization from his employer to attend the meetings. The Recreation Commission can make a recommendation to City Council on a possible candidate; however, all applicants will be considered. Commissioner Baker reported that he would again contact Commissioner Crosslin in reference to his lack of attendance to the Recreation Commission Meetings. A recommendation can be made to City Council with a written notice to the Clerk of Council to have Commissioner Crosslin removed from the Recreation Commission due to lack of attendance. Notice of the vacancy on the Recreation Commission will be posted in lobby.

Motion was made by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel, and unanimously approved to have a letter sent to the Clerk of Council requesting removal of Commissioner Crosslin from the Recreation Commission based on the Recreation Attendance Policy.

- F. City Property Initiative Report** – The Committee is in the process of being developed. Current members are Commissioner Kroko, Commissioner Carter, Dr. Antozzi and the City Planning Director. Phase I, now completed, was to identify city owned properties in the City as potential parks. Phase II is to identify non-city properties in the City as potential parks.

VI. New Business:

- A. Awards Banquet** - The Recreation Commission's 22nd Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet is scheduled for November 20, 2008. The following volunteers were nominated.

Contributor of the Year:

The Sunshine Lady Foundation - \$40,534

Sports Volunteer of the Year:

Tom Sherman

New Volunteer Coach of the Year:

Gary Johns

Alvin Staples Leisure Volunteer of the Year Award:

Christine Green

Hall of Fame Award:

Clifford Ellis

Special Support Award:

Lowe's – Heroes Program

Meritorious Service Awards:

Gerald Abel, Megan Dougherty, Jake Dziekiewicz, Friends of Alum Springs Park, Scott Mellott, Andy Morris, Michael Rudzinsky, Jill Samuels, Kelly Sands, Tory Willis, Cardinal Press, County of Spotsylvania, County of Stafford, Fredericksburg Youth Football Booster's Club, Lowe's of Fredericksburg #476, Simply Web Services

Distinguished Meritorious Service Award:
*Fredericksburg Police Department, Rappahannock Regional Jail, Bottom Dollar Food,
Cox Communications, Star Radio Group, WAWA*

Golden Partnership Award:
The Sunshine Lady Foundation, Inc.

Excellence in Service Award:
Wayne Washington

Recreation Commission Award:
Kellogg's

Past Recreation Commissioners:
*George W. Coghill
R. Edward Crosslin
Patricia B. Green*

- B. FSPA Appointment** – City Council requested that the Recreation Commission appoint a representative to attend the Fredericksburg/Stafford Park Authority meetings. The Fredericksburg/Stafford Park Authority is quickly ending as a park authority, due to the operation of the parks now separated between Stafford Parks and Recreation and Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation. Final business includes an audit and the dividing of the revenue.

A motion was made by Charles McDaniel, and unanimously approved to nominate Commissioner Kroko to represent the Recreation Commission at the Fredericksburg/Stafford Park Authority Meetings.

- C. Program Overview** – Dr. Antozzi presented the Commissioners with a program overview of the Parks and Recreation programs. The budget overview, requested by the City Manager, briefly outlined programs, attendance, revenue and expenses affiliated with each program. The Commissioners discussed the cutting back on the Awards Banquet in order to offer as many programs as possible. Dr. Antozzi will speak with Mike Ward to determine what can be done for this year. Discussion continued on the possibility of a Parks and Recreation employee opening up and closing of a school when it is used for sports such as basketball. Currently, the school janitor opens and closes the building and is paid by Parks and Recreation to stay at the school the entire day. This would eliminate or reduce the cost of a school janitor. Commissioner Miller-Richards will contact the Superintendent of Schools to discuss a Parks and Recreation employee having authority to open and close the schools. Other items of discussion included eliminating one field supervisor for the outdoor sports program, pursuing sponsorships for youth football jerseys and officials, sponsorship for the bands for Lunchtime at Hurkamp, and looking into alternatives for paid advertising for our programs. Commissioner Kroko volunteered to sponsor the first band for May 2009 Lunchtime at

Hurkamp Concert series. Dr. Antozzi will notify the City Manager on the responses from the Commissioners. The Commissioners requested notification on the City Manager's response.

VII. Commission Concerns and Topics:

Commissioner Carter asked if someone rents our parks, do we have a deposit from renters for field damage. Dr. Antozzi stated that the duration of a particular rental would be taken into consideration as to the fees when allowing a long-term rental to occur.

Commissioner Miller-Richards thanked the Commission for answering her questions tonight.

Commissioner Kroko asked that we use the correct letterhead.

Commissioner McDaniel stated that he did not care for the answer from David King on taking down the two dead dogwoods on Washington Avenue.

Commissioner Solley stated that in the next three to four years we will have several new trails, and the possibility of a new park. The responsibilities of this department will increase significantly and it is not too early to plan what we will need to do to manage all of our parks.

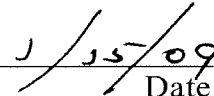
Commissioner Baker referenced that 50-70% of the refuse from Dixon Park is recyclable. Commissioner Baker's wife referenced a Green Grant Program that may actually pay for the containers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Approved by the Recreation Commission



Robert Antozzi



Date

Next Commission Meeting Thursday, December 11, 2008.